

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1, 12, 21-23, 26 and 27 have been amended, and claim 25 has been canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, which is respectfully requested, claims 1-24 and 26-28 will be pending. This amendment builds upon the amendment after final filed on October 13, 2004, which is requested to be entered prior to consideration of this amendment.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-19, 21-23 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by Freivald *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,983,268 (hereinafter "Freivald").

Claims 7, 11, 20 and 24-25 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freivald in view of Ohashi, U.S. Patent No. 6,408,297.

Freivald is directed to a system and method for detecting and alerting to changes to numerical fields in pre-identified (*i.e.*, registered) web pages. A user identifies one or more web page using each page's URL. The user also identifies numeric data fields in each page. A responder fetches a web page and generates markers for identifying locations of numeric data field(s) identified by the user in that web page. A spreadsheet user-interface is provided that allows the user to set up formulas that specify calculations to be made on the numeric data field(s) from the web page(s). The system periodically re-fetches the same web page(s) and extracts fresh numeric values from the fresh copy of each web page from locations identified by the markers. The results of the user-entered formulas are recalculated using the fresh numeric values, and a change in the numeric data field(s) of the web page(s) that cause a recalculated result to exceed a predetermined condition are signaled to the user.

It is respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the presently claimed invention. For example, with regard to claim 1, Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitations of parsing a model page and a second page to generate first and second strings of symbols for HTML tags in these pages, where the generated symbols in the first and second strings represent only HTML tags. Freivald, to the contrary, teaches a parser 32 that reads characters from a highlighted portion of a source document to determine a numeric data string within that portion. A marker is also stored, for example several characters before or after the

identified numeric data string, for use in locating the identified numeric field later. Also, in Freivald, a marker may be an HTML tag or text before or after the numeric data field (see, e.g., Freivald at column 6, lines 20-24 and claim 6, line 67 to column 7, line 12). This, however, does not teach or suggest generating symbols for the HTML tags, where the generated symbols represent only HTML tags as is recited in the claims. Rather, Freivald teaches using the actual HTML tags or content data (text) from the document as the marker, and not generating symbols that represent HTML tags only. In the present invention, for example, the HTML tags may be translated to unique numbers or characters.

It is also respectfully asserted that Freivald fails to teach or suggest the limitation of comparing the first and second symbol strings to determine whether the second string includes a second portion similar to the first portion of the first string. In this case, the comparison is of symbols representing only HTML tags. That is, the presently claimed invention as recited in claim 1 is directed to comparing strings of symbols that represent only HTML tags to determine whether there an area of interest may exist in a second web page. Freivald, to the contrary is only concerned with identifying and retrieving a numeric string/data field that is already known to be present in a web page and comparing that retrieved data with data retrieved from the same identified field location in the same page at a later time or from a data field that is already known to be present in a second page. For example, Freivald teaches detecting changes to specified data fields in the same web page, *i.e.*, changes to a web page at a specific URL. In this case, Freivald teaches re-fetching a registered web page, identified by a specific URL, and using specific, marked numeric data fields in preset calculations. Freivald also teaches that multiple web pages may be similarly marked (*i.e.*, data fields pre-identified), re-fetched and the numeric data fields used in preset calculations for just that page or in combined calculations where data from multiple pages are used. Nowhere, however, does Freivald discuss comparing symbol strings that represent only HTML tags. Rather, all comparisons and calculations in Freivald are performed on the extracted data content, *e.g.*, numeric data fields. See, *e.g.*, Freivald, column 8, line 62 to column 9, line 4 and column 10, lines 35 to 55. The Examiner has cited to column 9, lines 48 -50 of Freivald for the proposition that an equal sign "=" indicates comparison. However, Freivald in genera. and this section in particular, only teaches processing pre-identified

extracted numeric data fields, and makes no mention or suggestion of comparison processing of a string of symbols representing only HTML tags.

In the presently claimed invention, it is not known, *a priori*, whether a retrieved second web includes an area of interest. The comparison of string symbols generated for the first and second pages helps determine whether an area of interest exists in the second web page, or not. Data content may then be extracted from a second area of interest in the second web page. See, e.g., claim 4. However, the Examiner states in the Final Office action at page 3 that Freivald also teaches "parsing the [second] web page to determine a second string of symbols associated with tags that are a second area of interest..." Applicants point out that although aspects of this assertion *may* be correct regarding the teaching of Freivald since Freivald teaches pre-identifying and marking numeric data fields in any web page to be processed, this is an incorrect characterization of the claimed invention. Again, it is not known in the claimed invention whether a second web page includes a second area of interest, yet the Examiner's mischaracterization assumes that the string of symbols generated for the second page are already associated with a second area of interest. The claimed invention, rather, determines whether a second area of interest may be present in the second page based on the comparison of symbol strings generated for the model page and the second page.

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom, based at least on their dependency, are patentably distinguished over Freivald for at least the above reasons. Independent claims 12, 21, 22 and 26 include similar limitations as presented in claim 1. Applicants therefore also respectfully assert that these claims and all claims depending therefrom are similarly distinguished over Freivald for at least the above reasons. It is noted that the remaining cited references also fail to teach or suggest the limitations of the independent claims not taught by Freivald.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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